



United States
Department of
Agriculture

SEP 10 2008

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Dear State Director:

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) National Conference, *Summer Food; Pathways to Success*, will be held December 2 and 3, 2008, in Arlington, Virginia. The conference will offer training, technical assistance and sharing of ideas and best practices among Federal, State and local program administrators.

We strongly encourage you and your staff to attend the conference, and to fully participate in the numerous workshops and general sessions. The conference will have presentations and discussions on numerous key issues and challenges faced by State agencies working toward effective program administration. Some of the essential topics to be addressed include:

- Implementing the new Simplified Summer provisions,
- Increasing Program participation,
- Improving Program reviews,
- Managing commodities in SFSP,
- Administering the "Seamless Summer" option in NSLP,
- Collaborating with State, local and advocacy organizations, and
- Reauthorizing the Child Nutrition program in 2009.

An agenda is attached that outlines the schedule of events on both conference days. A finalized version, with detailed session information, will be available on our website later this fall. Information regarding registration and accommodations is available at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/SFSP_Conference.html.

This is the first SFSP conference held since 2002. We urge you to participate and learn how to make the SFSP's nutrition benefits for children as effective as possible in your State and communities.

We look forward to seeing you and your staff in December. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional office.

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA LONG
Director
Child Nutrition Division

cc: Regional Directors

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Summer Food: Pathways to Success

December 2 -3, 2008

Arlington, Virginia

Summer Food: Pathways to Success is part of USDA's initiative for reaching more children with healthy meals in the summer months. Participants of the conference will be State agencies, Program operators and partnering organizations.

The conference agenda will include time for breakout sessions, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities.

The agenda is as follows:

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

8:00 – 4:00	Registration
8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 10:15	Welcome Plenary
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Breakout Sessions I
12:00 – 2:00	Lunch Plenary
2:00 – 3:15	Breakout Sessions II
3:15 – 3:45	Break
3:45 – 5:00	Breakout Sessions III

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

8:00 – 4:00	Registration
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15	Breakout Sessions IV
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Breakout Sessions V
12:00 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 3:15	Breakout Sessions VI
3:15 – 3:45	Break
3:45 – 4:30	Plenary Session
4:30 – 5:00	Closing

We are looking forward to a rewarding and successful conference. Thank you for your interest and participation.